



COPS in Action

Community Oriented Policing Services

www.usdoj.gov/cops/

Denver, Colorado



"In Denver, every officer is a community policing officer."

Chief Tom Sanchez

Denver, the largest city in Colorado, is comprised of more than 500,000 residents spread over 155 square miles. In 1995, Denver received a Making Officer Redeployment Effective (MORE) grant from the COPS Office to redeploy 106 additional officers to the street by improving the technology available to the Denver Police Department (DPD).

The MORE grant was used to install Mobile Computer Terminals (MCT) in police response cars. Prior to receiving the grant money, the DPD had computerized dispatch equipment but did not have the funds to equip its police cars with the corresponding mobile technology. The MCTs contain instant information about warrants, suspended licenses, and other pertinent information. At a routine traffic stop, it would have taken an officer 20 to 30 minutes to get this necessary information. With the MCTs, this same information now takes 2 to 3 minutes to access. This is a valuable time savings to both the department and the residents of Denver. Residents are less inconvenienced by traffic stops and officers are able to spend additional time on the streets.

The DPD also instituted a time tracking process using the new technology. This process measures the amount of time each officer spends on community policing. Community policing is divided into three categories: partnership, problem solving, and prevention activities. The time tracking number includes every officer, from traffic safety officers to Chief Sanchez. In 1998, redeployment accounted for more than 148,000 additional hours spent by officers participating in community policing activities.

The MORE grant money has allowed the department to further their community policing philosophy of problem solving, prevention, and community partnerships. These problem solving techniques are defined by the community based on their needs. The time-savings resulting from this new technology has enabled the department to place the time equivalent of 106 additional officers on the street. There are currently 69 Denver officers that are devoted full time to community policing. The department is constantly expanding the existing technology to better serve the residents of Denver.

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■ ————— "Improved technology has led to the redeployment of the equivalent of **106** officers, creating time for community policing activities."

Lieutenant Gail Rowe